

# 48 Ways to Remain Unemployed

*1982 Survey of 100 New York companies asking why they did not hire candidates*

1. **poor personal appearance**
2. **arrogance, aggressiveness, superiority complex, know-it-all attitude**
3. difficulty in expressing oneself clearly; having a weak voice, poor diction or grammar
4. **complete lack of career plans, projects or goals**
5. **lack of interest; lack of enthusiasm, passiveness and indifference**
6. lack of confidence, poise; nervousness and being ill at ease
7. no participation in activities
8. **very interested in money** and only interested in the best offer
9. poor or borderline academic achievements
10. **refusal to start at the bottom of the ladder** or is too demanding & stubborn
11. makes excuses for an unfavourable report
12. **lack of tact**
13. **lack of maturity**
14. **lack of courtesy, bad manners**
15. **criticizes former employer**
16. lack of social insight
17. dislike for study and self improvement
18. lack of vitality
19. **lack of eye contact**
20. **lifeless handshake**
21. high degree of indecision
22. marital problems
23. inability to get along with parents
24. neglects to answer all questions on application form
25. very limited job search
26. looking only for part-time work
27. **little or no sense of humour**
28. insufficient knowledge of their area of specialization
29. lets parents make their decisions
30. **no interest in the company or the industry**
31. stresses the fact they are well connected with someone in the company and tries to “pull strings” to get the job
32. unwilling to transfer to a new location
33. too cynical
34. poor moral attitude
35. **laziness**
36. **intolerant of others**
37. limited interests
38. mismanagement of personal finances
39. no interest in community activities
40. inability to take criticism
41. no consideration for the value of experience
42. radical ideas
43. late for interview without good reason
44. **no knowledge of the company to which they are applying**
45. **failure to ask questions about the job**
46. too aggressive and too insistent
47. answers questions evasively
48. **lack of personal initiative**

## **2002 Survey to find out why employers reject job applicants in the interview...(VERY similar to the survey results from 20 years earlier)**

- **Poor communication skills**, both verbal and written: too talkative, poor grammar and diction, sloppy resumé and/or application;
- **Poor personal appearance**;
- **Lack of preparation** for the interview: knows nothing about the company/industry, asks no questions;
- **Lack of confidence and poise**: extreme nervousness, poor eye contact, introverted and unable to initiate conversation;
- Unwillingness to relocate;
- **Lack of motivation**: inability to set goals and achieve them, shows no potential for, or interest in, advancement;
- **Lack of interviewing manners**: late for the interview, comes across as overbearing, cocky, aggressive, interrupts the interviewer, appears uninterested and bored;
- **Negative feedback**: makes derisive comments regarding past employers or educators, makes excuses instead of offering explanations.

### **For students/graduates, additional reasons are:**

- **Poor scholastic record**: low GPA with no valid explanation, no extracurriculars, poor planning of college (university) career, **lack of focus and inability to define career goals**, took a long time to graduate;
- **Unrealistic expectations**: expects too much money, places too much emphasis on money/benefits, expects too much too soon and is **unwilling to start at the bottom**.